## Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 EA-06 SWF-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01

OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-20 STR-01 CEA-01 L-01 H-01 PRS-01

PA-01 USIA-06 DRC-01 /096 W

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R 151226Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3190

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FR, EC

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY YEUTTER DISCUSSIONS WITH

AGMINISTER BONNET

BEGIN SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE YEUTTER MET WITH AGMINISTER BONNET ON OCTOBER 11 FOR A WIDE-RANGING AND FRANK DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND PROBLEMS. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCERN ABOUT EC BEEF EMBARGO, US ACTIONS TO MONITOR

GRAIN EXPORTS, AND ISSUES RELATED TO NEXT MONTH'S WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

- 1. WHIL WHILE IN PARIS FOR AN OECD MEETING,
  ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE CLAYTON YEUTTER MET
  WITH FRENCH AGMINISTER HENRI BONNET FOR GENERAL DISCUSSIONS OF AGRICULTURAL ISSUES. ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING
  WERE MR. ACHARD, MEMBER OF BONNET'S CABINET WHO IS
  FRENCH SPOKESMAN AT EC AGMINISTERS' MEETING DURING
  BONNET'S CHAIRMANSHIP, AND MR. CORSON, SENIOR MINISTRY
  OFFICIAL FOR MARKETING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE.
- 2. BONNET REPLIED TO YEUTTER'S QUESTION ON PRESENT SITUATION ON CAP POLICIES AS RESULT OF RECENT GERMAN ACTION BY FIRST GIVING STANDARD FRENCH RHETORIC. WE WELCOME AN INVENTORY OF THE CAP. WE WELCOME AN IMPROVE-MENT IN THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE CAP. HOW-EVER, WE CONSIDER THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND MECHANISMS OF THE CAP ARE INVIOLATE AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO NEGOTIA-TION IN THE CAP REVIEW RECENTLY AGREED TO AT LUSEMBOURG. A BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND GERMAN POSITION ON PRICE INCREASE FOR FARM PRODUCTS. BONNET CONTINUED, AROSE FROM THE MUCH SMALLER RATE OF INFLATION IN GERMANY THAN IN FRANCE. BECAUSE OF THIS DIFFERENCE, GERMAN FARMERS WERE SUFFERING LESS THAN FRENCH FARMERS FROM INFLATIONARY RISES IN THEIR PRODUC-TION COSTS AND THUS THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD LESS FARM POLITICAL PRESSURE. BONNET ALSO STRESSED THE FRENCH CONCERN THAT THEIR PRODUCERS NOT BE DISCOURAGED BECAUSE OF THE URGENT WORLD NEED FOR INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.
- 2. YEUTTER DISCUSSED VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE US AGRICULTURAL SITUATION. HE PUT SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE BEEF SITUATION AND HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE EC AND OTHER IMPORTING MARKETS BEING CLOSED WHICH WAS BUILDING UP STRONG PRESSURES ON THE US TO RESTRICT ITS BEEF IMPORTS. BONNET POINTED TO THE UNUSUALLY LARGE RISE IN FRENCH BEEF PRODUCTION IN 1974. THE SITUATION HAD BEEN AGGRAVATED, HE SAID, BY A FAILURE TO CLOSE THE EC BORDERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOON ENOUGH TO THE LARGE INFLUX OF BEEF IMPORTS THAT BEGAN IN 1973. BONNET EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS DEFINITELY OPPOSED TO A PERMANENT CLOSING OF EC BORDERS TO BEEF IMPORTS. BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE INSISTED FRANCE NEEDED TIME TO ASSIMILATE THE LARGE INCREASE IN SUPPLIES BEFORE THEY COULD RESUME IMPORTS, AND HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHEN THAT TIME WOULD COME.

3. THE FRENCH REPS RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT US EXPECTATION ON THE RUSSIAN HARVEST, THE US ACTION TO CANCEL RUSSIAN GRAIN PURCHASES, AND THE RESULTING US PROGRAM TO MONITOR GRAIN AND SOYBEAN EXPORTS. YEUTTER GAVE A FULL AND CANDID RESPONSE TO THESE QUESTIONS, STRESSING THE FURTHER INFLATIONARY PRESSURES THAT COULD HAVE RESULTED FROM THE RUSSIAN SALES AND THE STRONG POLITICAL PRESSURES THAT WOULD HAVE COME FROM CONGRESS TO IMMEDIATELY INSTITUTE EXPORT CONTROLS. HE REITERATED THE ADMINISTRATION'S FIRM RESOLVE TO AVOID CONTROLS THROUGH A MONITORING SYSTEM WHICH IS NOT UNDULY RESTRICTIVE. THE FRENCH REPS INDICATED THEY UNDERSTOOD THE US ACTIONS, AND THEY EXPRESSED NO GREAT ALARM ABOUT THE SITUATION.

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4. YEUTTER STRESSED IN REGARD TO THE UPCOMING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE THE NEED TO BE CAREFUL SO THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE NOT OVERWHELMED BY THE LDC'S. ALSO, THERE IS A STRONG NEED FOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES LIKE JAPAN TO CARRY SOME OF THE COST BURDEN FOR WORLD FOOD RESERVES BECAUSE AFTER ALL THESE STOCKS ARE ESSENTIALLY FOR THE SECURITY OF IMPORTING COUNTRIES. THE FRENCH SAID THEY AGREED ON BOTH POINTS. ALSO, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT LEAD TO THE CREATION OF ANOTHER NEW INTERNATIONAL ROGANIZATION AS PROPOSED IN SOME QUARTERS.

- 5. COMMENT: THIS MEETING WAS THE FIRST THAT AGMINISTER BONNET HAS HAD WITH A US OFFICIAL SINCE ASSUMING HIS NEW POSITION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. WHILE BONNET DID NOT OPEN UP ANY NEW FRENCH POSITIONS MORE COMPATIBLE WITH US VIEWS, HIS GENERAL APPROACH WAS MORE CONCILIATORY AND IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THAT OF AGMINISTER CHIRAC IN HIS MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY BUTZ IN NOVEMBER 1973. BONNET WAS LESS AGGRESSIVE IN DEFENDING CAP POLICIES AND REFRAINED FROM MAKING ANY CRITICISMS OF US AGRICULTURAL POLICIES.
- 6. THIS REPORTING CABLE WAS NOT CLEARED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY YEUTTER PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. IRWIN

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: AGRICULTURE, POLICIES, MEETINGS, GRAINS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS24248

Document Number: 1974PARIS24248 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740292-0708

From: PARIS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741046/aaaabnnt.tel Line Count: 208

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION AGR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a

Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 4

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: golinofr

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 03 APR 2002

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31 JUL 2002 by golinofr>

**Review Markings:** 

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ASSISTANT SECRETARY YEUTTER DISCUSSIONS WITH AGMINISTER BONNET

TAGS: EAGR, FR, EEC

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005